

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 14083 040748Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05  
/107 W

-----091503 050158Z /64

R 040737Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0142  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14083

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA, JA  
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF GOJ PLANNING FOR UNTAG

REF: TOKYO 13861

1. ASAHI AND MAINICHI REPORTED AUGUST 3 THAT GOJ HAD DECIDED TO DISPATCH ABOUT 20 PERSONS TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN NAMIBIA. REPORTS, ATTRIBUTED TO "GOVERNMENT SOURCE", SAID DECISION REFLECTED GOJ DESIRE TO ADD STRENGTH TO UN-CENTERED "PEACE DIPLOMACY" BY EXTENDING PERSONNEL AS WELL AS FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SUCH OPERATIONS. MOFA WAS SAID TO HAVE EXAMINED POSSIBILITY OF DISPATCHING SDF PERSONNEL, BUT TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED REVISION OF LAW. THUS, MORE LIKELY POSSIBILITIES WERE THOUGHT TO BE PERSONNEL FROM MOFA, AUTONOMY MINISTRY, POLICE AGENCY OR OVERSEAS VOLUNTEER CORPS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 14083 040748Z

2. ARTICLES NOTED THAT WHILE JAPANESE MONETARY CONTRIBUTION TO UN RANKED THIRD IN WORLD, THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISSATISFACTION AMONG MEMBER STATES WITH JAPAN'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL. CONTRIBUTION TO NAMIBIAN OPERATION, IT WAS THOUGHT, MIGHT REDUCE SUCH CRITICISM AND STRENGTHEN JAPANESE VOICE IN UN. ARTICLES REVIEWED NAMIBIAN SITUA-

TION; NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF DISTANCE FROM JAPAN IT WAS LESS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE THAN OTHER AREAS AND MIGHT THEREFORE BE GOOD TEST CASE FOR JAPANESE PARTICIPATION; AND SAID MOFA OFFICIALS EXPECTED SOME CRITICISM FROM OPPOSITION PARTIES BUT WERE CONFIDENT IT WOULD NOT BE SERIOUS.

3. WHILE REPORTS APPEARED TO BE ANOTHER STEP IN MOFA EFFORT TO CONDITION PUBLIC OPINION FOR GOJ PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG, MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE CLAIMED THIS WAS NOT IN FACT THE CASE. UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA TOLD EMBOFF REPORTS WERE "PREMATURE" AND SAID HE HAD SPENT MOST OF AUGUST 3 ATTEMPTING TO DAMPEN PRESS SPECULATION AS TO IMPLICATIONS OF NAMIBIAN OPERATION. UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVDIR WATANABE SAID ASAHI HAD GOTTEN STORY FROM "UNKNOWN SOURCE", AFTER WHICH MAINICHI HAD CALLED TO CONFIRM VARIOUS ASPECTS. WATANABE THOUGHT EFFECT OF STORIES COULD BE SALUTARY, BUT AGREED WITH OKAWA OBSERVATION THAT THEY WERE PREMATURE IN THAT PUBLIC ATTENTION WOULD BE FOCUSSED ON GOJ PLANNING BEFORE THOSE PLANS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE WERE FULLY DEVELOPED. HE SAID MOFA WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MORE GRADUAL EDUCATIONAL PROCESS.

4. APART FROM IMPLICATION LEFT BY ARTICLES THAT PLANNING FOR UNTAG PARTICIPATION WAS MORE ADVANCED THAN WAS IN FACT THE CASE, WATANABE SAID MOFA WAS DISTURBED BY POSSIBILITY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 14083 040748Z

THAT GOJ CONSIDERATION OF CIVILIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UNTAG WOULD BECOME LINKED IN PUBLIC MIND WITH ISSUE, CURRENTLY RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION, OF APPROPRIATE ROLE OF SELF DEFENSE FORCES. THUS, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ABE, IN BRIEFING PRESS AFTERNOON AUGUST 3, STRESSED THAT WHAT GOJ HAD IN MIND WAS CONTRIBUTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECT OF UN OPERATION IN NAMIBIA, E.G., ELECTION SUPERVISION, WHICH HE DISTINGUISHED FROM QUASI-MILITARY PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITY.

5. COMMENT: WHILE GOJ HAS BEEN VIGOROUSLY BACKPEDALING IN WAKE OF ASAHI AND MAINICHI ARTICLES, WE DOUBT THAT LEAK WAS ENTIRELY UNINSPIRED. ALTHOUGH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN PREMATURE, STORIES HAVE SERVED TO SURFACE, IN NOT UNHELPFUL WAY, AN IMPORTANT GOJ INITIATIVE WHICH, IF IT IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL, WILL TAKE PLACE VERY SOON. OKAWA INFORMED EMBOFF EARLIER IN WEEK THAT VICE MINISTER ARITA HAD JUST BRIEFED CABINET THAT POSSIBILITY OF GOJ PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG WAS UNDER STUDY. AS TO OTHER CONCERN VOICED BY WATANABE, I.E., THAT QUESTION OF PERSONNEL FOR UNTAG COULD BE CONFUSED IN POPULAR MIND WITH DEBATE CONCERNING SDF ROLE AND ALLEGATIONS MADE THAT CIVILIAN UNTAG

PARTICIPATION WAS OPENING WEDGE FOR SUBSEQUENT SDF DISPATCH  
OVERSEAS, WE DO NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT THIS COULD BE  
COMPLICATING FACTOR, BUT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE,  
PARTICULARLY SINCE DIET IS NOT IN SESSION. MANSFIELD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TOKYO14083  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780320-1353  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780895/aaaadcdm.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 09891d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 TOKYO 13861  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1829195  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS REPORTS OF GOJ PLANNING FOR UNTAG  
**TAGS:** PORG, SF, WA, JA, UNSC, UNTAG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/09891d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014